

The Huntington Audubon Society
A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

August - September - October 2006

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

News from the Board

At the May membership meeting the following slate of officers was elected: President - Ginger Mahoney, First Vice President - Blair Broughton, Second Vice President - Stella Miller, Recording Secretary - Louise Hublitz, Treasurer - Petie Szabo. They serve for a one-year term. Elected to a three-year term as Directors were Louise Hublitz, Dick Furman, Ginger Mahoney, Petie Szabo, and Simone Daros. Directors whose term ends in 2007 are Sharon Brody, Cathy Fitts, Stella Miller, and Vinnie Schiappa. Directors whose term ends in 2008 are Blair Broughton, Alice Del Bosco, Jerry Hannon, Maria Kelly, and Bill Reeves. Bill Reeves continues as our representative to the New York State Ornithological Association. Our representatives on the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary Board of Directors are Alice Del Bosco, Petie Szabo who is replacing Ginger Mahoney, and Dave Taylor. We welcome the addition of Simone Daros and Stella Miller and appreciate the continued service of the others.

The board continues to work hard on local and national conservation issues.

Successful Yard Sale, Thanks by Ginger Mahoney

The rains came down, but the "stuff", as we fondly called your yard sale contributions, kept piling up in Louise and George Hublitz's garage on Southdown Road. Finally, rain forced us to cancel our June 3rd date and go with the June 4th rain date, which proved a good decision as eventually the sun did shine! Our first HAS yard sale featured a wealth of "treasures"- some old and dusty, some new and never used. Patrons had to walk through at least twice to really "see" all that was available. There were also garden plants and vegetables provided by Rosemarie and David Papayanopulos and a selection of shade grown coffee, purchased for HAS by Simone Daros, selling at a bargain price of \$10.00 a bag.

It seemed that no one walked away empty-handed! Our profit for the day was \$570.00.

We wish to thank all who helped make this first HAS yard sale endeavor a success. Thanks to those who contributed items to sell, those who supported the sale with their purchases, and those volunteers who gave their time and energy to set-up and work the sale. Special thanks go to Louise and George for offering their perfect yard sale driveway for our use.

Spring 2007 may seem a long way off, but the HAS board has already decided that we will hold another yard sale. So please keep us in mind as you decide to get rid of unwanted items throughout the year. The funds raised help us carry out our mission of environmental education and protection. One man's trash really can be another's treasure!

Birdwatchers Feed Birds



People often say "I love watching birds! I have a feeder and the birds do the funniest things." Or "I love watching birds! I put up a feeder and it's great fun to watch."

We are having just one Bird Seed Sale this year on Saturday, November 4, 2006.

The quality of the seed is excellent as our customers and the birds that frequent their feeders will attest. We have a wide variety of types available, and the order form describes which types are preferred by different birds. If you have ordered from us in the past, we know you are pleased with the product. Please suggest to a neighbor to also order some seed or better yet, add a bag to your order and give it as a token gift to introduce a neighbor to our seed. Our customers are our finest references.

You will be receiving an order form in the mail in September. Please notice the order deadlines and the times to pick up the seed at Huntington High School.

 **NOTICE: Due to a scheduling conflict at Huntington Library, OCTOBER'S membership meeting will be on THURSDAY, October 13.**

September Program

Wednesday, September 13
Huntington Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation

Speaker, Bobby Horvath, is a volunteer for the non-profit organization, Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation, which serves Nassau County, western Suffolk, and NYC. Bobby will bring a Saw-whet Owl, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-Tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and a Turkey Vulture for up close and personal viewing! We will hear their stories and learn why they can never again be released into the wild.

Featured Volunteer - Elaine Fass

A snowbird, Elaine Fass, usually spends December to April in Arizona where she enjoys warmer climates and marvelous birding. Her travels to and from Arizona also become extended birding trips for her for she makes it her business to stop at a wide variety of birding locations along the way. Some of those are near a direct route, but many more are wonderful detours.

When at home on Long Island, her love of birding led her to Huntington Audubon. An outdoors person since her youth, Elaine has been active in HAS since the 80's. She has participated in field trips regularly. You'll usually see her with both binocs and a camera. On many of our trips she's gotten a couple of great photos which she then shares with us at membership meetings which she routinely attends. She frequently contributes refreshments and for two years was refreshments co-chair.

Also an active conservationist, Elaine has been a true recycler in the strictest sense. On her walks, whether birding or otherwise, she's made it a habit to carry a plastic grocery bag with her. When she sees a discarded bottle or can, she picks it up, puts it in the grocery bag and eventually returns the "trash" for refunds which she sets aside. When the money from that becomes substantial, she donates it to Huntington Audubon. She has been doing this for many years.

Recently Elaine volunteered to work at Wicks Farm, but you might not have seen her there since the dates were rained out.

Also active in other conservation organizations such as Nature Conservancy, we are grateful for the long time support she has given Huntington Audubon and hope to continue to see her sharing our activities when she's on Long Island.

The mission of the Huntington Audubon Society is to increase community awareness about the environment and to encourage others to enjoy and protect birds and other wildlife in their natural habitats.



killdeer

is the newsletter of the

Huntington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-0735

a chapter of the National Audubon Society and is published five times a year.

Officers

President	Ginger Mahoney	(516) 922-4599
1 st Vice Pres.	Blair Broughton	(516) 692-2980
2 nd Vice Pres.	Stella Miller	(516) 682-5977
Recording Sec.	Louise Hublitz	(631) 271 4386
Treasurer	Petie Szabo	(631) 427-8769

Newsletter Staff

Co-Editors	Maria Kelly	(631) 673-0937
	Charlotte Miska	(516) 922-9710

Important Telephone Numbers

Rare Bird Alert	(212) 979-3070
-----------------	----------------

For Distressed Wildlife Call

Volunteers for Wildlife	(631) 423-0982
TR Sanctuary	(516) 922-3200

You can find us on the World Wide Web at:
www.huntingtonaudubon.org

Recycling Works!

To date, recycling of ink jet, laser cartridges, and discarded cell phones has netted \$554.



Please keep dropping them off at our meetings, field trips, or at Huntington Business Products in Huntington Village.

Thanks for helping the environment and HAS.

Out on a Limb

by Alex McKay



A little over a year ago I ventured out to the Sallie Ruppert Waterbird Park Preserve at Sand City on Eaton's Neck, remembering Sallie on the day following her memorial service at Caumsett State Park. Her presence is a sort of *genius loci* of the place, watching over the Terns, Piping Plovers, Black Skimmers, Gulls, and Oystercatchers who find refuge there. This year, I have been out to the preserve numerous times monitoring Piping Plover nests in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other volunteers.

The project actually started last fall when Huntington Audubon Conservation Chairman Jerry Hannon called my attention to the nesting Plovers he had observed the previous spring in an area well north of the preserve. Largely through Jerry's efforts, a meeting with Town of Huntington officials and Wildlife Biologist Steve Sinkevich of USFWS resulted in an agreement to establish protective fencing in an area just south of the beach parking lot where Plovers had been seen. Early in April, a work party supervised by Steve established a section of symbolic fencing with stakes, roping, and signs to demark a Plover breeding area. Town of Huntington Councilwoman Glenda Jackson and Maritime Services Director Jody Anastasia were on hand to approve the location.

Just over a week later, Steve had located three Plover nests, one in the area just set aside and two further out toward the point. Another was found just south of the parking lot and the symbolic fencing was extended north to the parking lot fence. By the end of May, there were seven known nest sites strung out from the parking lot to the end of the sand spit. A group of volunteers consisting of myself, Jerry and Joy Hannon, and Rosemary Barnitz began to patrol the area regularly to document the progress of the nestings.

In the following weeks, I learned much about the habits of the Plovers, their calls and distractive behavior and tenacity as they drove off dogs, gulls, and beach walkers. Plovers would pipe their distinctive high-pitched notes and run down the beach away from nest sites, fanning their wings, and squatting in depressions in the sand. Later, when the first chicks were hatched, one adult would distract while the other shielded the chicks under her body and wings. One evening, I saw an adult give a wandering chick a severe peck on its head, whereupon the chick quickly buried itself in the sand. However, most chicks seem to be allowed a great deal of freedom to explore the beach and tide line, almost disappearing at times as they blend with the patterns of sand and stone.

The Sand City Plover Project has been largely successful. As many as ten chicks have been observed and a new nest

with two eggs was found in late June, making a total of eight active nests. There are about a dozen Least Tern nests at the point, along with several hundred Common Terns, twenty Black Skimmers, a half-dozen Oystercatchers, and various Gulls in Sallie's Serengeti as I have come to call the preserve that honors her legacy.

Savannah, NY - September 25, 2006

by Alice Del Bosco

Surely you don't mean *New York*? Indeed we do. You'll find it north of the Montezuma Wetlands on your New York State map. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has been building a \$2.5 million Audubon Center there. The ribbon cutting ceremony with Governor Pataki is scheduled for September 25 but a date for the general opening of the 5,200 square feet center has not yet been determined. What's the story here? Audubon is not into bricks and mortar but it does work with entities such as Prospect Park and Beaver Meadow in the Buffalo area to provide programs in their centers. The state DEC is constructing and will own the building. Audubon New York has been fundraising with a local Advisory Board to provide programs. A director has been hired and soon there will be three full-time staff.

The Center is located in the middle of the first named Important Bird Area in NY which has been recognized for its national and global significance. Such a fitting location! Be sure to visit when you're in central New York.

October Program

THURSDAY, October 12

(Note change of usual meeting day.)

Huntington Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Program

Raptor and Songbird Migration through the Florida Keys

Casey Lott is a professional ornithologist and conservationist for the American Bird Conservancy. He has worked on research studies with water birds, raptors, and songbirds in locations ranging from Alaska to Hawaii, Nevada, Florida, and Israel. He will talk about the huge diversity of bird migration behavior that wasn't mentioned in the movie *Winged Migration*. If you've ever wondered, "How do warblers that weigh less than a chocolate chip cookie fly from New York to Brazil and back each year?" or "How do Peregrine Falcons spend their days between Greenland and Argentina?" come see this presentation. Although he didn't attach cameras to flying geese, he will be showing some outstanding pictures of Cuban Yellow Warblers, Chuck-will's-widows, and Short-tailed Hawks in the hand.

Environmental Advocacy 101 by Stella Miller

You have written your check, and mailed your contribution to your favorite conservation group. You smile, satisfied with yourself because you have taken a step towards protecting the environment. But did you know that there is so much more you can do? Yes, conservation groups need your money, desperately. But don't stop there. As important a tool as your wallet is, your voice and your physical presence are just as vital.

More than ever, especially in this political climate, the conservation movement needs you. And it has never been so easy to be an environmental activist. Every major organization has a website with a "take action" page or link. It is as simple as entering your personal information once and checking the "remember me" button. You then click on tabs and links that will automatically send your letter, fax, or e-mail to the proper government official. It literally takes under a minute to do this. You can request action alerts be sent to your e-mail inbox, thus keeping you abreast of the hot issues. Of course, a handwritten letter is always best, but when you don't have the time for that, reaching your representative is just a mouse click away. On-line petitions are sent in this way also. Several years ago, when drilling for oil in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) first came to the table, environmental groups gathered over a million electronic signatures. Your signature on these letters and petitions is an extremely powerful tool.

You can take part in marches and rallies. The energy at these events is almost indescribable; and the air is crackling with this energy, born from a common, united cause. Check the websites of your favorite organizations for information, including carpooling options.

Next, help the organizations you belong to with local events. Man a table at festivals. Hand out flyers, volunteer to mail out newsletters. Small things, but they make a very big difference.

Perhaps the most important tool you possess is your ability to vote. Vote for politicians who share your ideals. The League for Conservation Voters has a wonderful website that contains the pro-environmental voting records of your representatives. This will help you with your choice of candidate who best represents your concerns.

Many people do not go this extra mile. One standard reason is time constraints. As stated, with the ease of the internet, there is no excuse for that now. Another one is the typical thought, "What will it matter? What I say or do won't make any difference." That is not true. Why do you think the Senate has thus far defeated each effort to allow drilling in ANWR? Because our representatives know that

two-thirds of Americans are against it, thanks to letters and petitions.

Recently the following pro-environmental votes made it through the house, all due to pressure from concerned citizens:

- Two amendments to preserve the 25-year-old moratorium on new offshore drilling.
- A requirement of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to better protect wetlands and other waters.
- Preventing the EPA from moving forward with plans to weaken the public's right to know about toxic chemicals.
- An amendment eliminating subsidies for logging roads in Alaska's Tongass National Forest.
- Prohibiting the Department of the Interior from awarding new leases to oil companies that are drilling off our coasts without paying royalties.

The next time you are debating whether or not to make the extra effort and write a letter, sign a petition, or attend a rally, remember that in today's world of modern technology, it has never been easier to make your voice heard. And then, think about what Margaret Mead once said, "*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*" Indeed, YOU can change the world.



What's Happening at TR? by Alice Del Bosco

Everyone is deeply saddened by the death of Richard Haley, Director of Centers and Education for Audubon New York. His loss has been hard for us all to bear as Richard brought new life to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. Under his guidance we have made immeasurable strides and were looking forward to an exciting future. Richard touched everyone's heart: caring, personable, extremely capable, dependable, a friend to all.

Richard had been working for many months with a search committee to find a new Director for the Sanctuary. The search had just about concluded when Richard left us. TR president Ralph Fumante announced at a TR reception that Aaron Virgin would be the new Director. In his previous position in National Audubon's development department Aaron worked with the TR staff on several projects. He has also directed the Nature Center at Bear Mountain so he comes to us well qualified and ready to take us to an exciting new future.

Birding in South Carolina by Lindy Nielsen

At the end of March I flew down to South Carolina for a long weekend to visit with a fellow birding friend. She lives in the Piedmont (northeast) region of the state. Straight from the airport we headed to McDowell Nature Preserve in Lake Wylie, North Carolina, a wonderfully hilly wooded 1,108 acre park with streams running through it. Immediately after exiting the car, my ears were filled with bird songs and woodpeckers' drumming. Here we saw Carolina Chickadees, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Downy Woodpeckers, Titmouse, a Ring-necked snake, a Wood Frog, and Salamanders. We heard so much more than we actually saw.

Later, upon arrival at my friend's house, which sits on 33 acres of woods with a lovely stream, I headed straight for her back deck with binoculars raised to watch her many feeders and nest "pockets". Goldfinches were numerous in full summer plumage; a pair of Eastern Bluebirds was very interested in one of the nest "pockets", constantly checking it out. Eastern Towhees, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pine Siskins, Chipping Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Mourning Doves, and Carolina Wrens all love her yard.

The next day we arose at 5 AM, packed our box lunches, and were out the door while it was barely light. We had a 2¼-hour drive ahead of us to reach the Congaree Swamp National Park, located just southeast of Columbia, South Carolina. Here we met up with 10 other people from the Macklenburg Audubon Society, my friend's local chapter.

The Congaree Swamp National Park is 22,200 acres of swamps, woods, meadows, and streams. What a great place to bird. Again as I got out of the car, the bird songs were magnificent, the trees were alive with Northern Parulas, White-eyed Vireos, Yellow-throated Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. The list goes on and on. When walking through the swamp sections, you are on a boardwalk anywhere from a foot to three feet above the water. At one point, we had stopped to crane our necks upward to catch more Northern Parulas, high up in the trees, when someone spotted a Prothonotary Warbler flying by us. He then landed 20 feet away on the edge of the stream with his reflection mirrored. He gave us a good 15 minutes of breathtaking views.

Before I had to catch a plane north again, my friend and I visited Freedom Park located within the city limits of Charlotte, North Carolina. This park was a really nice place with its lake, stream, small section of woods, a game area, and concert bandstand. I had been told, by other birders, that if I wanted to have a sure sighting of a Red-headed Woodpecker, this was the place to visit. Since I had never seen one before, it was a must. They were right! That cherry-red head with black and white body was easy to spot.

Next we made a very brief stop at Crowders Mountain State Park just outside of Gastonia, North Carolina. If you climb to the top of the rocky mountain, the views (including Charlotte) stretch for miles in all directions. It was a shame that my time ran short, as this state park is definitely worth a return visit. I also will have to go back to revisit Congaree Swamp and McDowell Nature Preserve, as one visit is not enough. Then there are many other popular birding areas too.

I had a wonderful, long weekend, and to think that with all our birding, we still had time on Saturday night to kick up our heels doing some Country Western dancing and yes, we did sleep occasionally!!



Birders' Box

After the Birdathon our new total for the year of birds seen on official HAS field trips jumped from 76 species seen by the end of March to 152 by the end of May. Interesting sightings this spring include fine sightings of the Woodcocks at Wick's Farm and the Bobolinks at the week-long Bobolink watch, a fluffy Great Horned Owl that fledged this year was seen at Alley Pond Park on May 6th, an Orchard Oriole on the same trip, and numerous excellent views of Baltimore Orioles. On the Birdathon, we had a superb close view of a Yellow crowned Night Heron, as well as a Scarlet Tanager seen spotlighted by the sun. Beautiful! 19 species of warblers were seen on the Birdathon including Black and White, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Wilson's, and Canada which were just migrating through our area. Summer residents included Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and American Redstart. Among the more colorful birds seen that day were many Baltimore Orioles, an Orchard Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Cedar Waxwing. Less colorful but still wonderful birds to see were the variety of thrushes: Wood Thrush, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, and of course, countless Robins. We also had a good number of shore birds and passerines to fill out the list.

Number of species seen this year on HAS trips is 152.



MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings and activities of the Huntington Audubon Society are free to members and nonmembers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the Huntington Public Library except for the months of July and August. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM with refreshments and socialization followed by announcements and the featured speaker programs from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Board of Directors meetings are open to all HAS members. Board delegates are expected to attend.

September 2006

Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 PM - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. *Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation* presented by Bobby Horvath, a volunteer for the non-profit organization, Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation, which serves Nassau County, western Suffolk and NYC. Bobby will bring a Saw-whet Owl, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-Tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and a Turkey Vulture for up close and personal viewing! We will hear their stories and learn why they can never again be released into the wild.

Saturday, September 16, 9:00 AM - 12 Noon - Wicks Farm trail maintenance. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, September 20, 7:30 PM - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands Farm.

Sunday, September 24, 1:00 - 4:00 PM - Wicks Farm general clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Friday, September 29 - Deadline for the November - December *Killdeer*.

October 2006

THURSDAY, October 12, 7:00 PM - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. **NOTE CHANGE OF DAY.** Casey Lott presents *Highway to the Tropics, Raptor and Songbird Migration through the Florida Keys*. Casey Lott, a professional ornithologist and conservationist, will talk about the huge diversity of bird migration behavior that wasn't mentioned in the movie *Winged Migration*. If you've ever wondered, "How do warblers that weigh less than a chocolate chip cookie fly from New York to Brazil and back each year?" you'll thoroughly enjoy his presentation.

Saturday, October 14, 9:00 AM - 12 Noon - Wicks Farm trail maintenance. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, October 18, 7:30 PM - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands Farm.

Sunday, October 29, 1:00 - 4:00 PM - Wicks Farm general clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

November 2006

Saturday, November 4, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Huntington High School. **ONLY Bird Seed Sale this year.** Superior bird seed. Be sure to order in advance. We cannot guarantee your order if you do not pick it up by

2:00 PM. Order forms will be mailed to your home; extra copies are available at the September meeting or from co-chairs. Volunteers needed. Contact Sharon Brody (516) 433-5590 or Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 PM - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. Pete Salmansohn presents *Polar Bears at Churchill*. Churchill, Manitoba is known as the polar bear capital of the world, and Pete spent three autumns there as a guide for an eco-tourism company, aboard giant Tundra Buggies. During that time he saw mother bears and cubs, play-fighting between large male bears, arctic foxes, Willow Ptarmigan, and other wildlife. Hundreds of polar bears are stranded there in the fall, waiting for the ice to form on Hudson's Bay so they can hunt seals once again. Join us for an inside look at the lives of these awesome creatures and the unique little town which has received so much attention for its wildlife.

Sunday, November 12, 9:00 AM - 12 Noon - Wicks Farm trail maintenance. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 PM - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands Farm.



Membership Application

Chapter No. RO2

Membership in National Audubon includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine and all the benefits of being a local chapter member. As a member of the Huntington Audubon Society, you will receive our newsletter and an open invitation to all our meetings, field trips, and events.

- New National Audubon Society member for \$20 (includes *Audubon* magazine)
- Huntington Audubon Society member for \$20 (does NOT include *Audubon* magazine)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

e-Mail _____

Make check payable to: Huntington Audubon Society.

Send your check and application to:

Huntington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-0735



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington Audubon are free and open to the public. Birding with a group is a wonderful way to share your interests with like-minded people to learn more about birds and nature, and to enjoy many preserves and natural areas. Newcomers are most welcome. Binoculars and field guides are strongly advised, but leaders usually have some field guides to share. Field trips begin at 9:00 AM at the birding site and end around noon unless otherwise specified. Directions to the site are published below and on our website. Carpooling is possible, gas and tolls are shared. Contact the trip leader for details. The trip leader is not responsible for arranging carpools, but will provide names of others who are interested in carpooling. Registration is necessary. Call the trip leader by 9:00 PM Thursday for a Saturday trip and by 9:00 PM Friday for a Sunday trip. Be sure to leave your phone number. You may participate if you didn't register, but we will not be able to notify you of any changes or cancellations without your phone number. Dress for the weather realizing you'll be outdoors for long periods of time. Bring water and if the trip is for a full day, bring a bag lunch. Rain or temperature below 20° F cancels. For the comfort and safety of all participants there is no smoking on field trips.

September

Sunday, September 10, 9:00 AM - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. This is a great birding spot in the fall for shorebirds, summer residents, and migrants. The leader is willing to extend the time of the trip. Leader: Sharon Brody (516) 433-5590.

Directions: Take Southern State Parkway to Cross Bay Boulevard south, exit 17S, then head south. After crossing the bridge, look for parking lot entrance on the right side 1-¼ miles from the bridge. Turn right at the traffic light and meet in the parking lot.

October

Saturday, October 14, 9:00 AM - Parking Field 5, closest to the lighthouse, at Robert Moses Hawk Watch and Jones Beach. Hawk migration is recorded at the Hawk Watch. See wide variety of hawks and passerines. Leader: Bill Reeves (631) 266-4309.

Directions: Take Southern State Parkway exit 40 onto the Robert Moses Causeway. Cross both bridges to the traffic circle at the water tower. Go east to Field 5, near the lighthouse. Parking fee. Get receipt, valid at other parking areas.

Saturday, October 21 to Sunday, October 22 - Overnight trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in PA. Meet at the Hawk Mt. Parking lot at 11:00 AM. If you care to carpool from LI, contact the trip leader. Carpoolers share gas and tolls. Also contact him for suggested places to stay overnight on Saturday. Leader: Blair Broughton (516) 692-2980.

Directions: Hawk Mountain is located north of Hamburg, PA, approximately 7 miles northeast of I-78. It is approximately 3 hours from NYC. Take I-78 WEST thru NJ to PA. Continue on I-78 thru PA, passing Lehigh Valley exits to Exit 35 (Lenhartsville). On Rt. 143 NORTH, go 4 miles to the Sunoco station. Turn left

at the blue Hawk Mountain sign onto Hawk Mt. Road. Go 7 miles to top of mountain, turn left into parking lot.

Their website states: "In every season, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary offers scenic views of Appalachian mountains and valleys. From August to December a stream of hawks, eagles and falcons - on average about 20,000 - soar past the Mountain's ridge top. Visitors come from all over the world to experience the thrill of seeing the mountain and the migration. Whether you see one bird or one thousand, you'll leave Hawk Mountain with a new appreciation for these masters of the air."

November

Saturday, November 18, 9:00 AM - Pelham Bay Park. Look for owls, ducks, and permanent residents. In the past, Barn, Screech, Long-Eared, Saw-whet, and Great Horned owls have been sighted there. Leader: Blair Broughton (516) 692-2980.

Directions: Take the Hutchinson River Parkway to the Pelham Bay Park/City Island/Orchard Beach exit. Continue east farther into the park past the traffic circle then veer left to the parking area on Hunters Island. Meet the group there.

Another Successful Birdathon

Once again we saw more than our targeted 100 species of birds in one day. We tallied 107. Led by Bob May, many of our "regular participants" were in attendance, but we would like to welcome newcomers Simone Daros, Stella Miller, Mike Givant, Norman Klein, Walter Chaskel, and Paul and Susan Aidala. Financially it was also a success. The amount raised to date is \$1,839. The three persons who gathered the greatest number of pledges are: Bill Reeves, Ginger Mahoney, and Vinnie Schiappa. Thanks to all who participated and donated!



killdeer

Huntington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-0735

Forwarding Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Huntington, NY
Permit No. 546

August - September - October 2006



Printed on recycled paper.

\$17 Million Job Underway to Upgrade Sewer Plant by Alice Del Bosco

How does this recent headline in the *Huntington News* relate to Huntington Audubon? This long awaited and very necessary action has come about partially due to the Audubon New York State Office working with Connecticut Audubon and other organizations and north shore Audubon chapters to restore the waters of Long Island Sound. As early as 1998, the two states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency outlined a schedule to reduce the "human-caused nitrogen load to the Sound" by 58%. This called for sewage treatment plant upgrades along the coasts of Long Island, Connecticut, and New York City. Each year since that date at our annual State Audubon Council spring meetings, chapters have proposed resolutions urging legislative action to bring this about. Our state staff follows up in Albany and Washington to see that this becomes a reality. Last year Congressman Steve Israel worked relentlessly to see that Congress reauthorized the Long Island Sound Restoration Act which authorized \$40,000,000 to be spent annually for five years on restoring the waters of Long Island Sound. Audubon New York recognized the Congressman's efforts by bestowing him with the *Sound Guardian* award this spring. After all these efforts Huntington Audubon is gratified that our Town has listened and cooperated and is finally ready to act with an upgraded sewage plant.

Wicks Farm Update by Catherine Fitts

The spring clean-up at Wicks Farm had slow progress with the number of rainy scheduled dates and the loss of a borrowed truck to transport the mower. Thanks to all the volunteers that sweated to clear the area around the barn. The wood chip piles are awaiting our return.

HAS is currently appealing to its members for the use of a truck or vehicle to transport the mower to Wicks Farm to keep the trails mowed as well as the areas around the bluebird houses. HAS invested in ramps to quickly load and unload mower. If anyone is willing, please contact Cathy Fitts, (631) 427-8623 or Blair Broughton, (516) 692-2980.

If you would like to help in trail maintenance this fall, plan to attend one of the following work days:

- **Saturday, September 16, 9:00 AM - 12 Noon** - Trail Maintenance
- **Sunday, September 24, 1:00 - 4:00 PM** - General Clean-up
- **Saturday, October 14, 9:00 AM - 12 Noon** - Trail Maintenance
- **Sunday, October 29, 1:00 - 4:00 PM** - General Clean-up
- **Sunday, November 12, 9:00 AM - 12 Noon** - Trail Maintenance

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!